District and 15 in Bathinda Telecom District. The oldest pending application is in Bathinda since December, 2001.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) The PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration.

Statement

Telecom District-wise Details of STD/ISD/PCOs released during last three years in the State of Punjab

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom District	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Amritsar	282	792	293
2.	Bathinda	54	515	79
3.	Ferozpur	381	1087	251
4.	Hoshiarpur	259	437	83
5.	Jalandhar	268	669	534
6.	Ludhiana	453	456	172
7.	Patiala	183	320	98
8.	Pathankot	186	451	264
9.	Ropar	129	266	21
10.	Sangrur	77	139	5
11.	Chandigarh (only areas in Punjab State)	148	51	35
	TOTAL:	2420	5183	1835

Reduction in Rates of Long Distance STD Calls

3799. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to further reduce rates of long-distance STD calls beyond 500 kms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No Sir, There is no such proposal under consideration.

As per TRAI Act 1997, only the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been mandated with the power of tariff fixation. TRAI, in its 20th Amendment dated 14.03.2002 to Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, have lowered the ceilings of the rate of STD & ISD calls with effect from 01-04-2002. As per this Amendment, the ceiling for the pulse rate for calls beyond 500 kms was reduced to 4.6 seconds, and for calls beyond 1000 kms to 3.5 seconds. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, as a Public Sector National Long Distance Operator, had already reduced the STD tariff with effect from 14.01.2002 to a level below the ceilings specified by TRAI in its aforesaid order. As per BSNL's orders, which came into effect from 14.01.02, only one pulse rate exists and is 8 seconds for all calls beyond 500 kms during peak hours.

Working of Mobile Phone Companies

†3800. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mobile Phone Companies of the country are working with the 400 mobile phone companies of 171 countries under the Global System for Mobile Communication;

(b) if so, whether these companies are contravening provisions of the Copyright Act by making use of phone chesis number system under the provisions of the Act without permission; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.